

Membership Has Its Privileges

“Now you are the body of Christ and members individually”

1 Corinthians 12:27

People join themselves to other people for all sorts of reasons, but the general principle behind all clubs and organizations is that there is strength in numbers. That is the benefit for the group, but what is the benefit for the individual? The individual needs to know that he or she enjoys special privileges that only those who are members of the group are eligible to enjoy. There is an unlimited assortment of groups that any of us could join, but we ask ourselves what it is that we put in and what it is that we get out of membership. I agree with the goals of many of these groups, but I have not become a member of any except one.

The Lord’s Church is an earthly group that has headquarters in Heaven. There are specific terms of membership in the Church which discourage many from joining, but there are also amazing privileges. I have never been invited to dine at the White House, and I probably never will be, but every week I get to come to the Lord’s Table and join in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit. There are many members of the Lord’s church and they are spread all over the planet, but we are all in agreement about the LORD. We recognize the value of the privileges that He extends to the members of His Body.

When we come to the Table we celebrate His death and we will do so until He comes again. When He comes again, He will transform our lowly bodies to be like His glorious body and He will take us to the home of our Heavenly Father and, because we share in His Table here, we will share in His House for all eternity.

Membership has its privileges.

It is vital that people understand that membership is open to anyone who wants to be a Christian and who is willing to comply with the will of the LORD. The Bible tells us that these commands are not burdensome (1 John 5:3) and that means that God makes sure those membership qualifications can be met by anybody who wants to meet them. It is also vital to understand that if you are not a member then you are not eligible for the privileges. Heaven will not be your home and therefore you should not be at the Lord’s Table now, but it is your choice. There is no way for me to eat the fare from the table at the White House. So far no president has brought the White House into the home of any of our citizens. There is no “take-away” White House menu. But God has invited everyone to His weekly feast. Some think that cheapens the celebration, but some of us are just amazed at the privileges of membership in the Body of Christ.



That meets at 701 South Wilbur, Sayre, PA 18840
(570) 886-1838

Arthur Barry, Evangelist- (607) 280-1732

September 29, 2019

WELCOME!

<u>Sunday</u>	Bible Class- 9:30 a.m. Worship- 10:30 a.m.
<u>Tuesday</u>	Ladies Bible Study- 10:00 a.m.
<u>Wednesday</u>	Bible Study-6:30 p.m.

All the churches of Christ greet you.

Romans 16:16

Today’s Sermon: [Overcoming Problems in the Church](#)

Sermons are recorded and are available for listening on the church website.

Bulletins are archived on the website.

valleycitieschurchofchrist.org

aicoc.org (Antioch Initiative)

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Scripture: [Philippians 2:1-16](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPCOMING EVENTS...

- **Wednesday Evening Bible Class:** September 25th, 6:30pm. Arthur will continue with our study of Galatians.
- **Next Potluck:** October 20th
- **Regional Singing:** December 29th



NEWS

- **We will be hosting the 5th Sunday Regional Singing today at 4:30.** After singing, we will be offering a selection of soups, breads and desserts. Please plan to attend and help out with the food.
- **Randy and Barb Salsgiver from Kittanning** are worshiping with us today. They have been spending some time with the Barrys checking out some water falls in the Finger Lakes and cider mills, etc. until they continue on to Vermont on Monday.
- **Plans are being made to start a Grief Ministry** as an outreach service to the community.

PRAYERS

- **Continue praying for follow up visits and calls to contacts made during our two recent door-knocking campaigns.**
- **Clint Jones** left a prayer request in our box out front because his girlfriend, **Becky Wolcott**, was having a breast biopsy. We are thankful to report that the result was negative.
- **Todd Williams** has not felt well this week.
- **Andrea Lentz**, who has lung cancer, is staying at Elderwood in Waverly. Her cancer has spread to her bones. Please pray for Andrea to be free from pain and for healing.
- **Continue to pray for Mark Elsbree**, who needs a kidney donor soon, **Lori Kashorek**, who has lung cancer (Lori is the minister's wife at the Plattsburgh, NY church), **Erin Beiber**, who has metastatic breast cancer (Erin is Sandy and Arthur's neighbor and Darlene's cousin), **Ronnie Jones**, who is recovering from a stroke, and **Don Myers**, minister for the church in Elmore, AL, who is suffering from back pain and the effects of his pain medication. **Peyton Chacona**, seizures.
- Pray for those of us who have people in our families who are yet unsaved or have strayed.

If you have any PRAYERS or NEWS that you would like included in the bulletin, please contact Sandy at barncat7237@gmail.com or text or call (607) 261-0911.